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Draft report

Addendum

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Programme questions: evaluation (item 3 (d))

In-depth evaluation of the advancement of women programme

1. At its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 5 and 6 June 2000, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the advancement of women programme (E/AC.51/2000/3).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and the representative of the Secretary-General responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. It was observed that parts of the report were overly descriptive and should have been more analytical. It was, however, noted that the report was comprehensive, broad in scope and informative. The report also provided a fair assessment of the various activities making up the programme and of the programme's achievements and limitations, including resource constraints.

4. The leadership of the programme was praised, particularly for its role in organizing the review and appraisal of the Beijing Conference. The importance of gender mainstreaming in programme budgeting was noted and, in particular, its relevance for the next Medium-Term Plan.

5. Concern was expressed about the fact that the report failed to address the issue of resources constraints.

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6. The view was expressed that there was still a need for printed publications to be distributed through traditional channels, as not all users who required information had access to web sites through the Internet.

7. It was noted that, owing to time constraints, not all non-governmental organizations had been able to address the Commission. Some non-governmental organizations had unrealistic expectations and had unfairly blamed the Division for the Advancement of Women for not being allowed to speak before the Commission.

8. It was noted that it was already an obligation of all non-governmental organizations to translate their reports into the working languages of the United Nations. It was also noted that the reports scheduled for discussion by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were listed in the Journal of the United Nations.

9. During the consideration of recommendation 10 (b), the need to verify its harmony with established rules and procedures regulating the participation of non-governmental organizations in intergovernmental deliberations was observed.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee agreed on the continued importance and relevance of the advancement of women programme.

11. The Committee recommended approval of recommendations 1 (a) and (b), and 2 to 10 (a), subject to the following observations:

(a) Recommendation 1 (b). Noting that States Parties' request for technical assistance had been turned down, owing to resource constraints, assurance was requested that this recommendation was viable. The assessments of the situation of women in States Parties to the Convention should always be based on reports by States Parties;

(b) Recommendations 4 & 5. While the Division should not be blamed for the inadequate coordination among agencies, it was important that these two recommendations on improving coordination be implemented quickly and effectively;

(c) Recommendation 5. Each agency should carry out their own duties as appropriate;

(d) Recommendation 6. A major role of publications was to promote the work of the Division. While the marketing and distribution efforts for these publications were significant, more resources should be transferred to substantive programme areas;

(e) Recommendation 8. It would be difficult for the Division, which was already overworked, to also be involved in publishing articles in professional journals;

(f) Recommendation 9. The existence of two web sites implied duplication.

12. The Committee recommended approval of recommendation 1 (c), on the understanding that (a) notification of consideration of reports by States Parties would continue to be provided in the Journal of the United Nations and (b) all

non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations already had an obligation to translate their reports into the working languages of the United Nations.

13. The Committee draws the attention of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to paragraph 92 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the advancement of women programme.

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the world, customized services for users, the needs of students and the shifts in resources in the Statistics Division indicated in the table in section V of the review.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. While recognizing the importance of and the need for advanced technology in the dissemination of statistical information throughout the United Nations system, use of traditional means of data dissemination should be continued where accessibility is still not widespread or is inefficient or non-existent.

7. The Committee endorsed the conclusions of the triennial review.

authority to the Emergency Relief Coordinator, should be considered and approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

5. It was stated that field coordination needed to be further strengthened. The current arrangements, including the concept of lead agency, needed to be reviewed. The Emergency Relief Coordinator should be provided with more authority, the terms of reference for his decision-making adopted and qualified personnel made available for field coordination functions. It was expressed that recent demands made on the Office were outstripping its capacity to respond, owing to the lack of resources available.

6. Concern was expressed about the reasons why the Steering Committee of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee referred to in recommendation 2 of the report, had not been established, as proposed by the Secretary-General in 1997. Clarification was sought as to whether the establishment of the Steering Committee was still needed.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended approval of recommendations 1 and 3 of the triennial report, subject to the following observations:

The Committee stressed the need to finalize the development of special emergency rules and procedures, taking into account the requirements of the Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs emergency activities. These rules and procedures should be considered and approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.